

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 09320 201054Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
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INFO MEMBASSY ATHENS 2397
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9320

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: AL, IT
SUBJECT: ALBANIAN DEVELOPMENTS

1. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION, MFA OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR BALKAN AFFAIRS (VENTO) NOTED REPORTING FROM THE ITALIAN EMBASSY AT TIRANA REGARDING A NEW ROUND OF PURGES IN ALBANIA WHICH SEEMS TO BE AFFECTING INTELLECTUALS AND EDUCATED CADRES. ACCORDING TO THE REPORTING, THE PRESENT PURGES ARE TAKING THE FORM OF EXPULSIONS FROM THE ALBANIAN WORKERS PARTY. INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED, AFTER BEING BARRED FROM THE PARTY, REPORTEDLY LOSE THEIR JOBS, AND ARE OFTEN FORCED TO TAKE POSITIONS IN FIELDS TOTALLY UNRELATED TO THOSE IN WHICH THEY PREVIOUSLY WORKED. THE ITALIAN EMBASSY SPECULATES THAT INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED ARE THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT ALBANIA SHOULD EMERGE FROM ITS ISOLATION AND SEEK TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD ALTHOUGH IT NOTES THAT THERE ARE PROBABLY WIDELY DIFFERING VIEWS ON HOW THIS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT.

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2. VENTO ALSO REPORTED THAT THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR AT TIRANA HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDER WAYS OF IMPROVING ITS TIES WITH TIRANA ON THE HEELS OF THE IMPROVEMENT IN ALBANIAN-GREEK RELATIONS. HE HAS PROPOSED THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGE ALITALIA TO RESUME ITS SERVICE TO TIRANA, SUSPENDED SEVERAL YEARS AGO FOR ECONOMIC

REASONS, AND STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING
A REGULAR PASSENGER-CARGO FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN A
SOUTHERN ITALIAN PORT AND AN ALBANIAN PORT. THE
ITALIANS ARE ALSO CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF
PROPOSING TO SEND TO ALBANIA A FEW DEPUTY MINISTERS
WITH RESPONSIBILITIES IN TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC FIELDS
WITH A VIEW TOWARDS STIMULATING THE EXPANSION OF
BILATERAL RELATIONS AND CONTACTS IN NON-POLITICAL
FIELDS.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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